

Camp Chase, Arlington Heights Virginia
October 26th 1862

Miss Deborah Weston!

Your kind letter of October the 20th I have received last Wednesday afternoon and read it with the greatest interest and pleasure.

Your long and nice letter written on the 29th of September I received about twenty days after date; whereon I send you an answer last Sunday October the 19th. The letters arrive here in Camp very irregular, and the news-papers which you kindly send me so often, I receive very few. The letters usual from Weymouth to our Camp arrive in three days, but the letter from John Schnarten was handed to me twenty four hours after date. The Mail of the Battery goes in the City and out again once a day in the week, some how the letters and papers get misplaced, not only to me, but for a good many more.

We have not changed our Camp yet, but I believe
we will in the course of this coming Week; -
most all the Infantry Regiments left here for other
Quarters, but to day arrived here 4. four new
Regiments) - The Pennsylvania Reg- Stone Battery,
which was in Company with us since our arrival
here at Washington, left here for Chain-Bridge last
Wednesday. We were greatly attached to each other
so by opportunity by going to our drill ground
and seeing the Reg Stone Boys in line ready to start
- gave our Captain the order (to the Column right) which
brought us on a hill opposite their Camp (on the right into
line (- Action front) Load with Cartridges) Whereby
we Saluted them by firing once from the right
to the left, and once from the left to the right
Limbering up again to move to our drill place
where we had to pass the Boys once more and parted
with Cheers in hope to meet us again in the Battle-
field - The Weather is getting quite cool
here especially in the Nights, whereby We get
sometimes a little Short on Wood, the other -

Say I volunteered to go with the Mule team
and get a load. We went about one mile in the
Southern direction of Virginia where we found some
two and three story houses in a ruin condition, which
were abandoned by the Rebels; they were good however
build of White Oak in fine tile, but it for not
make any reference to us, they are torn down and
used for fire wood. Last Sunday afternoon, I
took a walk to the Rebel Gen: Lee's former Residence
occupied at present by Gen: Heintzelman as head
Quarters, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m from our Camp. I will prescribe to
you this Dominion as good as I can; On a
beautiful hill stands the two story house, with Pillars
on the front build of Brick and cemented in imitation
freestone, a few Barns which are in use of Onkel
Lamb Horses, about 100 yards from the house, is a
Grave yard with two Marble Pedestals on which is
inscribed on the front of one (George Washington Park Custis
born April 30th 1881, died October 10th 1854, and on
the reverse, Blessed are the Merciful, for they
shall obtain Mercy

On the second Stone, in front. Mary L. Curtis born
April 22. 1788. / died 23. 1855. / on the reverse,
(Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.)
I am told by an old Negro who was a slave on this place for
many years, that this Noble Gen. Lee married the daughter of the
whose bones lying, I shall bury, here in the Grave, and that he
got this property with about 12 or 13 Acres Land by his Wife.
This Estate is situated on Burlington Heights, between the long bridge
and Chain-bridge, on a hill surrounded with trees for many M^{ts}. except in
front, where it gently declines to the banks of the Potomac, which gave
a fine view in all direction. I have seen since this I have
thinking, that you would be pleased to accept some slight memento of
this place. I enclose a Leaf taken of the Grave of a true Patriot, who
died to his end, though Wounds received while going helpfully
to his Country, and whose body lies with many Generals of the
that I have described.

We are going to move to Harpers to the other side of the
Potomac, from where I shall write to you again and
soon we are settled for our destination.

My best regards to Mrs Weston and all
your family
Yours truly
John Augustus M^rse